

# FSSA News Release

For Immediate Release

## FSSA Now Accepting Applications for Early Childhood Education Matching Grant

Indianapolis (January 15, 2014) – The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) is now accepting applications for the Early Childhood Education Matching Grant, which will help provide quality early education for low-income, prekindergarten children in Indiana.

The matching grant program, established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2013, allows high-quality, early care and education programs to apply for matching funds to serve 4-year-old children from families whose incomes are below federal poverty guidelines. Applicants must have already achieved Level Three or Level Four in Paths to Quality™, Indiana's voluntary child care quality rating and improvement system and they must secure a cash match from a community organization or other funding source.

Governor Mike Pence, in outlining his legislative agenda in December 2013, listed early childhood education as a priority.

"While I am proud of the fact that Indiana is only one of a handful of states that funds all-day kindergarten, this matching grant program will be the first time that our state has used state funds to provide education to students before kindergarten. I hope this is a significant first step in helping to prepare low-income Hoosier children to enter kindergarten and to succeed throughout their school years," Governor Pence said.

The legislation establishes that \$2 million will be available for two years, beginning in 2014. Grants will be awarded effective July 1, 2014. The existing grant program is distinct from additional pre-K legislation currently under consideration by the 2014 General Assembly.

The application for the Early Childhood Matching Grant is now available on [FSSA's Carefinder website](#). FSSA will also hold webinars and other informational sessions to help inform potential applicants and educators about the grant process.

More information about the Paths to Quality™ program is available [here](#).

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